



Tips To Help Felons Stay Free

By Robert Rivera

Its not easy being a felon . Places like Wal- Mart, daily labor sweat shops and even Goodwill are closing their doors to felons in many towns and cities in America. So many people are unemployed that there is a demand for people that are willing to work on low wages that can be trusted.



This is a recent picture I took that was posted on the front door of Goodwill recently we are in 2012. I remember my first job in 1996 paid \$9.50 and hour times where tough gas I thought was expensive and rent was so high it was that it was impossible to even rent or to be a provider for my soon to be wife.

I later turned to crime out of my unhappiness due to low wages . I found that while I was in prison that I had always been a good person I just made a lot of mistakes.I went to prison for credit card fraud and a few thefts. In prison I turned to god like many do . Once released from prison I found that I could not become a barber a garbage man , not even a bartender. In my quest for happiness I realized that my level of happiness would be due to more than religion but my income after all who in the world wants to be exposed to the elements and be homeless.

I have found that religion is good but if a felon wants to truly remain free he needs good people to be around . Family support is vital extremely vital . Without family support or decent friends to help lift these guys up it is virtually impossible to stay free.I will share a few things that have helped me on the way .

One thing a felons must realize that job oppurtunities will not just spring up and people will not be knocking on your door to give you a job you have to go out and find one yourself. We live in a time where having one skill is not enough especially if your a felon. Here are some ideas to help felons gain some skills.

Alison.com is a great site it has free courses to help use Microsoft Office which almost all office jobs require a person to know.

JobCorps if I would of known about this place I believe I would of never went to prison as a child. I was seeking a skill and way out of poverty and a life of indignity I believe after the age of 22 your are not able to enroll in this program their programs can definetly equip a person to have a more secure and happy life.

Blogging I wouldn't put your faith in this many people are paying Google 60 cents to get a one visitor . You can have the best site and best content , the way things are looking if you do not have any money to advertize making a daily income is impossible not being negative just being honest. If you get into blogging Seo is vital here is a free ebook you can download from my site this will help you if you decide to do it any ways.I used HootSuite and got a Social Media Certification for less than \$25.00 bucks I did it in less than a month and did not have to pay for it since I did it in less than a month after that they collect the \$25 bucks I cancelled my subscription through my paypal once I finished and have a logo to place on my resume along with others saying I am Certified .

<http://whitehatseowarsebook.blogspot.com>

!!!!(Legal Research)!!!

You could always think about learning legal research methods there are free courses at West Law Next Elearning. West Law And Lexis Nexis are used by all big law firms that handle cases and legal research all over the world. Lexis Nexis may cost you money since you have to be apart of a law firm to take their free course. Other sites will milk you for a few hundred for the certification. You can do a search though a get a Certification in legal research through the U.K and get it for free.

<http://www.lexislibrarycertification.co.uk/>

If you give up you will not get it . Certifications on your resume show signs of improvement when people see that you are helping yourself and trying to do something with your life people may go out of the way to help you . With the U.K Lexis Nexis test I could not find hardly no answers I took it anyways even though I could not login into the student portal I registered as if I was a student at the University Of London and it let me take the course your certification will be emailed to you once you finish your test .

Here are some videos about Lexis Nexis to help you learn more about it :

[http://help.lexisnexis.com/tabula-rasa/newlexis/gh_tutorial-topic?
lbu=US&locale=en_US&audience=all](http://help.lexisnexis.com/tabula-rasa/newlexis/gh_tutorial-topic?lbu=US&locale=en_US&audience=all)

Start Your Own Business I had faith I would find a decent vehicle I found one that a man in the military was selling he was being shipped over seas he wanted like \$5,000 I got it a little less than \$700 bucks. I told him I was a felon wanting the truck to start a business. I felt awkward . stupid and extremely embarressed but I got what I needed to make a honest living. House cleaning supplies can be bought at a Dollar General store for hardly nothing a cheap mop a broom ,dust pan ,vacumn cleaner ,toliet bowl scruber, Windex and some rags was all I had to start off with.I was making over \$4,000 to \$5,000 a month and did a lot of traveling and thought I was going to get married. Do not tell your probation officer you are the owner put into under a relatives name or girlfriend get help with this because if you are on probation the probation officer may ask for all your customers addresses you have cleaned and if you do not comply you can be in violation of your probation. After 2 months I was shut down.I was able to help a dear friend get his medications and treatment to stay alive for 2 months so it was worth it .Remember the Dept. Of Corrections is not in the business of helping people stay free. If you disobey their orders you can be sent straight

back to jail . This was a pic I took within the first year I got out of prison. I worked for \$6 an hour in 2003 I did this on my own. I had started off with simple black and white business cards I spent like \$20 bucks for 1,000 business card and paid \$40 bucks per magnetic sticker for my car after I started to make some money. I cut grass and cleaned condos hard work very competitive but I made some cash the legal way. Don't worry about your race or what people will think or what your car looks like if you have the energy to do this go for it it may work if it doesn't try something else. Never put your faith in anything except what seems to be sure. Time is money and if you waste your time you may find yourself with no money . Remember people out there are spending money on advertizing you will have to talk to Realtors and people that run condos to get work its not easy and many places may not need you since they already have a contract with some other company. I got quite a bit of work by putting card in newspaper racks when no one was around I put a few in the middle of the newspaper. (=)



Motion For Determination Of Probation Many courts may require you to pay fee's at the Clerk Of Courts Office for a Motion For Termination Of Probation. I rolled the dice and got off a 5 year probation sentence in 3 years due to good

behavior . I did it behind my probation officers back after all its my life and he makes a living off of me being under his supervision. I simple wrote on top of a piece of paper this : Motion For Determination Of Probation . I wrote down my case numbers under that my sentence and shared my accomplishments I was released immediately. I received a discharge paper from the local judge even my probation officer was in shock. I never paid any court fees or saw a judge I wrote directly to the judge to save money and it worked.

Bush Trimming lots of people have bushes if you have a truck ,bush trimmer ,a rake and some bags you can make some money I know people that charge \$200 for doing just a small area of bushes.since you may not have a license or enough money to be known you may want to think about charging less say like \$50 bucks for doing a yard full of bushes. There are videos online that teach you how to do it . If you have no bushes to practice on I guess you could be sneaky and go way out in the woods in the country down some dirt road and practice.Remember after \$600 you have to report your income to the IRS . So call their toll free number and request for a Tax Id number after you make over \$600 .You may want to get workmens compensation and also learn a little about bookkeeping and payroll why not it will improve your resume. There are software programs online that are inexpensive that do all the calculations for you.

Truck Driving if you have been to prison its virtually impossible these days to get a truck driving job. The DAC and insurance companies will simple be against you since 911 felons are now considered security threats even though we have never committed a 911 and most of us are simply poor people that need a chance at life. If you just did some county jail time its worth a shot. You may be able to find a local community college that charges under \$2,000 for the training and license. If you apply for a school out of you state like I did out of state tutition cost can be in the thousands of dollars . Just remember that . Since I am a felon no one is giving me a chance but if you did some county jail time you should be fine a lot of guys that have done county jail time are driving trucks.

Fish Processing Plant got to admit it sounds really rough being out their sleeping with a bunch of men in close quarters long hours and your pay may not be great if the fishing season is not good . Hours are long pay seems to be decent though from what I have read.

http://www.unisea.com/ak_proc_job_descript.htm

<http://www.alaskafishingjobsnetwork.com/featured/our-favorite-towns-to-work/>

If a person does not mind really cold weather has a strong back this is good.

Ed2Go.com and Gatlin education have courses which you can take through

Universities at a low price. Many of the certifications I have say Continuing Education on them but I got certified through big schools like Purdue and others for under \$3,000 bucks sounds like a lot but its nothing when you consider that many College grads have over \$150,000 in student loans they would laugh at the measly amount I spent. Remember the more skills you have the better. Not only are you competing against College Grads but children every year they are leaving high school and entering the workforce and most of them have no crimnal record so bite your tounge hold your pride back if you can and recommend that you do because we did this to ourselves we just have to be strong and work with what we got in many cases it may be our own mind .Condition yourself to be strong ,alert ,respectful and positive

We made our bed we have to lay in it do not expect sympathy from your church or other people. People over all are concerned about their life if someone trys to help you listen by respectful to others by listening to others you may just have earned a friend and not just a friend but someone that will respect you for trying to help yourself. The problem with many of us felons is that we do not listen we run our mouths and our minds are thinking about stupid stuff and we can not stay focused. Oh also check out **Unions** . Many people are against them and but have no idea that the pay is great. I actually had medical benefits. I never in my life felt so good about myself till the day I had a Union Job. **Painting Unions** are in many major cities do a search online for one fill the application out most people get in with no experience and make good money after their training. A good jobnormally leads to having a happy life and possible a happy marriage and the possiblity to even become a renter of home owner. People would be amazed to know how many felons stay out of prison due to a good wage. Most of what you hear negative about unions are from people that are apart of the upper middle class and the elite they want people to work for low wages not thinking what it will do to our econmy and have been brain washed to the max by the media. I have not meet a single person in my entire life that has not made a very fair wage when working under a union they protect your job ,and pay you a decent wage. I worked the hardest I have in my life but I had a tremendous amoung of pride knowing that I was making a honest living and actually able to pay rent something thats almost a impossiblity for a felon to do working on \$7 and hour we know that a child cannot live on those wages so we should never ask our men to but this is the case all over America if you are in this situation I hope you get a raise and do well in your jobs stay positive and optimistic.

If you are working for years and being productive you have a right to live here. If you experience housing discrimnation you can make a compliant through Hud.

Note if you are a minority that you are a protected class and that there are Presidential orders that forbid HUD from discriminating against men since we do make up the majority of the prison and homeless population. Most minorities are not aware that organizations like EEOC protect us from discrimination. Go to them if HUD declares you are banned from housing you can not be since you are a citizen of America and not a threat to the government if you were you would not be free. Housing Discrimination towards African American people is a crime against humanity and if we allow this to continue without fighting people will continue to lock up minorities. I feel responsible men should be rewarded with the possibility of becoming renters it's just a human right such as being able to eat food is.

Stay away from trashy bars spend a few bucks more if you must drink places like Fridays, Apple Bees are inexpensive and a good way to meet decent people. Clubs are problems if you get into a fight you will most likely be the only one doing time since you have a record. Driving around with people that use drugs late at night is a good way to go back to jail. Cut off old friends and associations. Talking to the youth is great but know that if your life is messed up they will not see any reason to change so if you share your testimony also share reasons why you have changed your mindset and why it's important to avoid drugs and crime. Many kids in poverty want a reason to change their lives. Most of us feel like we are entitled to something but we are not. If we are waiting for the manufacturing jobs to come back from China you can forget about it what you see is what you get. The jobs that you see in your reach are your reality are your future if you do not like it you have to strive to go above it. I have also watched people die of diseases such as AIDS make sure you know how to use a condom right.

AIDS is no joke I have seen what it does to people it's really sad to see a young person die. Stay away from negativity realize that hearing a bunch of problems all day is not good it can make you sick. If you are apart of a group make sure a lot of positive things are being shared. If there is none try to get away. The state and government are trying to force many felons into halfway houses and shelters when this does not help us but hurt us. Strive to maintain your dignity by having realistic goals. If you must relocate make sure you have a place to go to and job opportunity. Places like Austin Texas have low rent and are full of nice places. If you need to get away from your past do your best to if it is in your means.



Peace